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Selected news items primarily on the Sino-Soviet Bloc from latest available foreign press

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Prepared by

Foreign Documents Division
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
2430 E St., N. W., Washington 25, D. C.



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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

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ECONOMIC

SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE -- Peiping, Ta Kung Pao, 30 Jul 60, p 1

Despite the state's attempt to quadruple production of machine parts, compared to last year, and to increase greatly the purchase and marketing of such parts by commercial departments, there is still a shortage of such items as pistons, piston rings, cylinder heads, cylinder sleeves, bearings, air intake and outlet valves, nozzles, plates for caterpillar treads, and gears.

During the current drought alleviation and flood prevention campaign, irrigation machinery is most urgently needed by agriculture. Although China now has much more of this machinery than previously, neverthless, just as in the case of tractors, if one spare part needs replacing or repair, the whole machine is out of operation. If there is a 2-3 month wait before the machines can be put back in service, then the most crucial months of the agricultural year will have passed. It is therefore impossible to assign a secondary status to machine parts production. Some localities, when drawing up their production plans, are according spare parts a primary role, and this is completely consonant with the present actual situation.

MANPOWER ALLOCATION FAILURE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Sep 60, p 2

Recently, the party cadre of the Hsiang-lien People's Commune in Min-hao Hsien, Fukien Province, decided to use 80 percent of the commune's manpower to harvest the early rice crop and care for the late one. The party committee worked out the plans and distributed them prior to the harvest. However, when Ma Fu-hsiang, secretary of the Min-hao Party Committee, inspected the Tung-sheng, Feng-chiang, and Ta-i production corps of the commune, he discovered not only that less than 80 percent of the manpower of these corps had participated in the crash harvesting and sowing work, but also that the amount of manpower used was less than half that utilized last year.

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Measures of the party committee cannot be implemented mainly because some party cadres of the communes and production corps do not have a correct understanding of the policy of "with agriculture as a foundation" and "with food as a network." The are afraid that by strengthening agricultural production, their individual production and secondary occupations will be affected. Some of the other cadres fail to draft the necessary manpower to the agricultural production front because they do not use good judgement in differentiating the unimportant and the important, the routine and the urgent.

TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY FOR AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 11 Sep 60, p 6

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A nationwide mass movement to support agriculture is developing on the transportation front. The transportation workers in Szechwan, Fukien, Hupeh, Shansi and Kwangtung are vigorously helping agricultural production by giving agricultural materials high priority in transportation. For example, the transportation units in Szechwan organized over 100 trucks to transport over 5,000 men to Ya-an District in time for a rush job in agricultural cultivation and sowing.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 12 Sep 60, p 7

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Astonishing industrial development has been achieved by the Ch'ien-nan [southern Kweichow] Pu-i and Miao Autonomous Chou. This chou, with a population of 1.8 million and a territorial area of over 28,000 square kilometers, had, by the end of 1959, established over 3,000 iron and steel, machinery, chemical, electric power, and light industrial plants. The value of industrial output of the chou in 1959 was 1,800 percent above that of 1949. The ratio of output in value of industry to the total value of industrial and agricultural production increased from 10 percent in 1949 to 38.66 percent in 1959. Before liberation, the chou had only 229 kilometers of roads; in 1959, it had 1,769 kilometers. All haien seats and over 80 percent of the communes and administrative areas in the chou can be now reached by motor vehicles.

RIVERBOAT REPAIR SHOP -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 19 Sep 60, p 3

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A boat named "Agricultural Trade Cooperation No 1" carries all types of parts, equipment, and machinery for the repair of agricultural tools and machinery. During a 14-day stay in Nan-hui Hsien, the boat was used to repair 17 diesel engines for the Ni-cheng People's Commune.

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SOCIOLOGICAL

HELP PLAN MOSCOW YOUTH MEETING -- Paris, L'Humanite, 16 Sep 60

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The following French youth leaders are attending a preparatory meeting in Moscow for an international youth conference there in July 1961: Pierre Gaudez, president of the French National Union of Students; Paul Laurent, secretary-general of the French Communist Youth Union; Hadey, secretary-general of the French Council of Youth Movements; and Jansen, a leader of the National Federation of Youth Clubs.

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